

University of Dundee

Use of UK health services by Gypsies, Roma, and Travellers

Siebelt, Lindsay; Jackson, Cath; McFadden, Alison; Dyson, Lisa; Atkin, Karl

Published in:
Lancet

DOI:
[10.1016/S0140-6736\(17\)33016-7](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(17)33016-7)

Publication date:
2017

Licence:
CC BY-NC-ND

Document Version
Peer reviewed version

[Link to publication in Discovery Research Portal](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

Siebelt, L., Jackson, C., McFadden, A., Dyson, L., & Atkin, K. (2017). Use of UK health services by Gypsies, Roma, and Travellers: triangulation of two mixed methods studies. *Lancet*, 390(S81), 81.
[https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(17\)33016-7](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(17)33016-7)

General rights

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in Discovery Research Portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from Discovery Research Portal for the purpose of private study or research.
- You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain.
- You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal.

Take down policy

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

Use of UK health services by Gypsies, Roma, and Travellers: triangulation of two mixed methods studies

Lindsay Siebelt, Cath Jackson, Alison McFadden, Lisa Dyson, Karl Atkin

School of Nursing and Health Sciences, University of Dundee, Dundee, UK (L Siebelt PhD, A McFadden PhD); and Department of Health Sciences, University of York, York, UK (C Jackson PhD, L Dyson MSc, K Atkin DPhil)

Correspondence to:

Dr Lindsay Siebelt, School of Nursing and Health Sciences, University of Dundee, Dundee DD1 4HJ, UK

l.siebelt@dundee.ac.uk

Abstract

Background Gypsies, Roma, and Travellers (GRT) are less likely than the general population to access health services. The reasons are multiple, complex, and interlinked, and they exist at individual, provider, health system, and national levels. We report on two studies that explore GRT use of UK health services. Study 1 aimed to investigate barriers to, and facilitators of, immunisation, and identify interventions to promote uptake. Study 2 aimed to explore approaches that facilitate engagement and trust between GRT and health services, with maternity, early years, and child dental health services as exemplars.

Methods Study 1, completed in 2016, involved in-depth interviews with 174 GRT from six communities and 39 service providers in Scotland and England, and intervention mapping and co-production workshops with 76 participants to prioritise interventions. Study 2, to be completed in 2017, involves systematic reviews and a realist synthesis; online consultation with 196 UK-based stakeholders; case studies involving interviews and focus groups with 44 GRT, 54 health-care professionals and 13 third sector staff in Scotland and England; and cross-sectoral workshops which will refine policy recommendations. Qualitative and quantitative analysis identified barriers and facilitators to receiving health care; and approaches to enhancing engagement and trust in health care. Ethics approval for study 1 was granted by National Research Ethics Service Committee Yorkshire and The Humber, Leeds East, and for study 2 the NHS Health Research Authority East Midlands, Leicester Central Research Ethics Committee (16/EM/0028).

Findings Barriers to health care included discrimination, economic disadvantage, differences in cultural interpretations, language, and health literacy. Facilitators included trust in health professionals and intergenerational change towards valuing health services. Approaches to enhancing engagement included specialist workers and named professionals for GRT communities, cultural training for professionals, and tailored or flexible systems. Facilitating the research depended on collaborating with trusted gatekeepers, and both studies used co-production methods to ensure that study recommendations are grounded in practice realities and acceptable to stakeholders.

Interpretation The findings provide advice for practitioners and policy makers engaging with GRT people, as well as insight on supporting other marginalised populations. Exploring the experience of GRT, service provision, and policy offers a substantiated account enabling public health to reflect on success or otherwise of interventions aimed at tackling inequalities.

Funding Study 1 was funded by the National Institute for Health Research Health Technology Assessment Programme (12/17/05). Study 2 is funded by the Department of Health Policy Research Programme (Enhancing Gypsy/Travellers' trust: using maternity and early years' health services and dental health services as exemplars of mainstream service provision, PR-R8-0314-24002).

Contributors

CJ is the principal investigator for study 1 and was involved in all its stages; and is involved in overseeing and analysing findings from study 2. LD is involved in all stages of study 1. AM is the principal investigator for study 2 and is involved in all its stages. LS and KA are involved in all stages of study 2. All authors approved the abstract.

Declaration of interests

We declare no competing interests.

Acknowledgments

We acknowledge the other members of our study teams: Helen Bedford, Francine M Cheater, Louise Condon, Annie Crocker, Carol Emslie, Lana Ireland, Philippa Kemsley, Susan Kerr, Helen J Lewis, Julie Mytton, Karen Overend, Sarah Redsell, Zoe Richardson, Christine Shepherd, and Lesley Smith (study 1); Kerry Bell, Anna Gavine, Haggi Haggi, Nicola Innes, Helen Jones, and Steve MacGillivray (study 2). We thank the Stakeholder and User Advisory Groups who advised both studies.